of Environment and Forest has granted in-principal approval for diversion of 259.54 hectares of forest land for construction of Dalli Rajhara-Raoghat Rail Line Project in Chhattisgarh on 09.09.2005. The permission for construction of station buildings on forest land has not been accorded as it was not clear from the proposal if the stations would be located within the forest area proposed for diversion or additional forest land would be required. However, the State Government has been requested on 26.12.2005 to submit its recommendations/comments in this regard. The recommendations/comments of the State Government have not been received. As per the details given in the proposal of the State Government, about 297.0179 hectares of private land will also be required, and a total cost of Rs. 304 crores is proposed to be incurred on the construction of the said rail line. The Ministry only grants approval for diversion of forest land for non-forestry use, and implementation of such projects is the responsibility of the concerned State Government and the user agency.

Forest land in Madhya Pradesh

†1244. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to increase the forest land in Madhya Pradesh for bringing improvement in environment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forest-lands and adjoining areas through two-tier decentralized structure of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level in the country including State of Madhya Pradesh. As on 06.02.2006, 47 FDA projects in the State of Madhya Pradesh have been sanctioned to treat a project area of 75,500 hectares through 1,472 JFMCs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.